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2005 Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons

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Working paper submitted by Nigeria

Issues to be considered by Main Committee III

Peaceful uses of nuclear energy

1. The Conference underlines the important role of the IAEA in assisting developing countries in the peaceful uses of nuclear energy by developing relevant programmes and providing a framework for cooperation in that regard. The Conference recognizes that the application of nuclear energy for peaceful purposes plays an important role in the socio-economic development of developing countries. The Conference, therefore, reaffirms the inalienable right of States Parties to NPT to engage in research, production and use of nuclear energy for peaceful purposes without discrimination, and the right to unimpeded and non-discriminatory transfer of nuclear technology for peaceful purposes.

2. States Parties agree that the right to peaceful uses of nuclear energy will be preserved and respected unconditionally, and that their actions in this matter will always be in conformity with Articles III, IV and V of the Treaty. States Parties further agree to make every effort to ensure that IAEA has the financial and human resources necessary to effectively meet its responsibilities towards assisting developing countries in developing nuclear energy for peaceful purposes.

3. The States Parties reaffirm their commitment to IAEA safeguards system and the achievement of its universal application. The Conference urges all States that have not yet done so to sign comprehensive safeguards agreement with IAEA and place any nuclear facilities under its safeguard arrangement. In this connection, the Conference underscores the need for all States Parties to honour their obligations under Article III of the Treaty.

Dumping of radioactive waste

4. The Conference attaches great importance to resolution 58/60 of the General Assembly on the Prohibition of the Dumping of Radioactive Wastes, and calls upon States to take appropriate measures to prevent any dumping of nuclear or radioactive wastes that would infringe upon the sovereignty of States. In this regard, the Conference recalls the resolution adopted by the Council of Ministers of the Organization of African Unity in 1991 (CM/Res.1356 {LIV}) on the Bamako

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Convention on the Ban on the Import of Hazardous Wastes into Africa and on the Control of Their Transboundary Movement within Africa. The Conference calls for effective implementation of the Code of Practice on the International Transboundary Movement of Radioactive Waste of the IAEA as a means of enhancing the protection of all States from dumping of radioactive wastes on their territories.